



Here  
and  
Now!

July 2023

Volume 70, Issue 7

**PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE:**

**On Being Redemptive**

*“and hath given us a ministry of reconciliation...” 2 Corinthians 5:18*

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Many years ago (many, many years!), I was kicking myself for something stupid I had done. And, as was my habit, I went to my best friend, Judi, who is now an ordained minister in the UCC. I poured out my heart, thoroughly making a case against myself with every detail and from every angle, and at some point, I became annoyed, because from the look on her face, I could see that Judi did not think my issue was as serious and all-condemning as I did. I stopped and gave her a chance to speak, and she said, quite caringly, “Sometimes being human, with all of its emotions and desires, just happens. We shouldn’t shame ourselves for acting like a human being.” And then she broke out in laughter – at me.

I don’t know if that sounds redemptive to you – but to me, it was. For a person who knows me so well to minimize my self-blame, even laugh at me, was so healing. By the time that conversation was over, I was laughing at myself too. I still don’t think so highly of my stupid action... but now it is in proportion as a dumb mistake and it is no longer the end-all-be-all of my character. There is a gift to being understanding and redemptive when someone is in pain. My friend Judi has it.

The calling of God on our lives is to be redemptive toward other people, to move through our relationship always looking for ways to lift one-another up, and help another regather their balance. It is somewhat easier for us when we see in front of us someone we love who is in pain – we know better then what to say and how to offer relief. But what about when we are angry? That is a challenge.

When we get angry at someone (okay, this is a confession, when I get angry at someone) there is the tendency to want to trap them in a corner where they have no choice but to accept our wrath and punishment.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

Sometimes we would like to emotionally/psychologically dissect them, pointing out to them ALL of their personal failings and excoriating every failing aspect of their personality. If we are mad enough, we might even have a personal opinion about what should happen to them, a punishment they should receive. And the temptation is there to trash them, to their face or behind their backs, to cut off relationship with them and expel them from our world. But we seldom feel better if we do. We might even walk away feeling as if we are now the ones who have walked over the line.

Lately, I have been reminded how important it is to act redemptively, even in anger, to come to interpersonal issues with the intent to reconcile, redeem, learn, and teach, rather than to punish and banish. Confrontations that shame and rage leave the other with no sense of dignity and accomplish nothing for Christ – they are ego-centric and self-serving. God has a purpose and a plan for every person who crosses our path, even those who step on our toes while doing it. Reacting with the will to heal, reconcile, and redeem is to be Christ-like to another person. It doesn't mean laying down and becoming a door-mat, it does not mean failing to speak in truth or confront an offender – it means that in confrontation and truth telling, we leave the door open to reconciliation, we approach the other with an opportunity to grow better together with us – because that is the nature of our faith.

Leanne



### FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Hello everyone! Well, summer finally made it. I am so thankful for no more snow! These past months have been a challenge for me. I honestly believe Our Lord has placed me with this faith family & coworkers who have unconditionally sent their prayers, love and blessings my way! I am so humbled by your out pour of support.

Thank you so much. I am so blessed!

We will not be having any Balance and Strengthening Classes this month.

I would like to thank you Patriots for your service this 4th of July. You make the USA great!

I will be on vacation June 29 to July 6, 2023. There will be no home visits during this time.

### **GIGGLES**

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning, Alex.'

'Good morning, Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.' Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

**'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?'**

A Sunday school teacher asked, Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark? "No", replied Johnny, **"How could he, with just two worms?"**

# North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

## Brenda Munson Presenting “Don’t be a Target of Healthcare Fraud”

Tuesday, July 11 at 12:00pm

### Ramstad Hall

Medicare fraud costs all of us - and it could happen to you or someone you know! Learning about scams targeting seniors is a great step in protecting yourself and your family. In this informative presentation, ND SMP will discuss how to recognize Medicare fraud, Covid testing kit scams, new Medicare card scams, brace scams, social media scams, online shopping scams, and identity theft!

#### *“A Word with Wanona” - I would like to introduce you to Rosey Sand*

-Where were you born and raised. How many siblings?

**Langdon, North Dakota. 2 sisters, and 2 brothers.**

-What was your very first job?

**Delivering the Grand Forks Herald.**

-In your working history, tell us something most people don’t know about you?

**Managed a public swimming pool.**

-Where did you graduate high school/college?

**High School – Langdon. Undergraduate – University of North Dakota Law School – University of North Dakota School of Law.**

-How did you meet your spouse?

**I am pretty sure I will meet my spouse at a dog event.**

-Name three goals you wanted to accomplish in your life?

**Be a baseball player, be a physical education teacher, and be a lawyer.**

-What is the most memorable event in your life?

**Who can remember that far back?**

-What are you thankful for in your life journey?

**I have been so very blessed in my life it is difficult to choose. Obviously, my family and friends come to mind, but also my church and work life have offered me so much opportunity to be thankful.**

-Fun Fact:

**Rosey and Wanona have known each other since 7th grade, and graduated from Langdon High School together! (so many stories to tell!)**



**Rosey’s boys  
Booker & Riley**



## *“A Word with Wanona” - continued*

-Who is your hero?

**I have had many people in my life that I admire and respect. To pick only one would be a snub to all of the others.**

-What was the funniest thing that has happened to you?

**My whole life is a stand up comedy routine – in retrospect everything can be funny.**

-When were you a member of First Presbyterian Church?

**I have always been a Presbyterian; but joined the Bismarck church in the early 1980s.**

-What are some of the volunteer, membership and duties you have had at First Presbyterian Church.

**Bell ringer, Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Elder, committee member, and pastor search committee.**



Thank you Rosey, for sharing your life journey with us!

## **FPC'S COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE**

The First Presbyterian Church Community Garden made its first harvest donations this month. Heaven's Helpers received fresh arugula, spinach and radishes.

The garden, on the corner of Teton and Third Street, is growing a variety of vegetables, including arugula, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, squash, carrots, sweet peas and onions. The raised garden beds also feature a few flowers and berries.

The Hospitality Committee organizes and works the garden with help from master gardener Pat Weinberg. Donations will be made to a number of charities throughout the growing season.





**Mark your calendar:**

**Vacation Bible School will be held July 31 - August 3, 2023.**

VBS will begin late in the afternoon and a meal will be provided.

Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited.

Registration forms available in the church office. Hope to see you there!

**Scholarship Committee-**

The Scholarship subcommittee of the Outreach Committee voted to send our annual donation to the University of Jamestown from the Samuel and Bertha Merritt Trust fund.

The subcommittee awarded the following scholarships to the following applicants:

-**Audrey Simmons** received an award from the Bachman-Snortland fund

-**Alisha Wohl** received an award from the Church Vocation fund

-**Mark Jensen** received an award from the Sorlie fund

-**Sophie Svihovec** received an award from the Sam and Bertha Merritt and Sorlie funds

-**Drew Henriksen** received an award from the Sam and Bertha Merritt fund.

A huge thank you to the Committee members for their service this year.



**ADMIN & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-**

FPC is still in need of a full or part-time maintenance manager. We have had a couple of inquiries for the position however, they have not worked out. Therefore, we are reposting the job opening. In the meantime we have hired J & M Cleaning Service. J & M will be cleaning on Monday and Wednesdays during the summer and then Monday and Thursday when Presbyteens starts in the fall. This will help, however, the day to day "fix it" items along with the church's HVAC system are left unattended. A big thank you goes out to Matt Engel who has taken on responsibility of cleaning, fixing, and being on call for the HVAC system.

If you know anyone who might be looking for part-time or full-time custodial work please contact the church office, 223-6091.

**MISSING:**

**the knife spreaders used for the HIGH TEA**

If anyone knows where they might be or

If you borrowed them - Please

let us know in the church office!



**THE HIGH TEA WILL BE:**

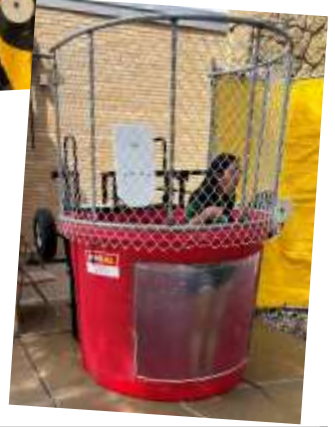
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 AT 2:00PM**

for more information - watch the bulletins & newsletters...

# CHRISTIAN ED - SUPER SLIDE FAMILY FUN NIGHT!



# 150th Anniversary Celebration - A Memorable Event!



## The Child Care Center News

The FPC CCC Staff and Board want to wish everyone a HAPPY & SAFE 4th of July! What a GREAT celebration of our church's 150th Anniversary & SPECIAL that the Childcare Center is also a part of our church's history for the past 28 years!



### Some common sense reminders for summer safety tips:

- NEVER leave an infant or a young child alone in a closed car in the summer.
- NEVER let a child near water unattended.
- Remember to protect you and your child against sunburn by using proper sunscreen/ clothing/sunglasses. Remind yourself to re-apply sunscreen when outside for long periods of time and if possible look for shade. Remember to hydrate, hydrate, hydrate, especially with water!
- Keep the bugs at bay and be sure to check for ticks on you and your child. Use safe products to apply along with clothing to cover up. Remember, ticks like dark, warm spaces and can easily be hidden on the body.
- If possible, avoid Poison Ivy!
- Be sure to practice safety for you and your child if using fireworks!



**Thank you** for the donations of disposable diapers (sizes 4 and 5) for the month of June. Many thanks for the monetary donations and remembering our Child Care Center!

CCC Needs list for July are Paper towels and Hand Soap.

Thank you for your generosity!

God's richest blessings to all of you!



### CCC Needs List for July: paper towels & hand soap



Remember to contact the FPC CCC Director Shawn, or Assist. Director, Vanessa at 701-258-7490, if you or anyone you know is seeking "full filling" part-time or full-time employment, or wishing to volunteer in some way.





## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

June 27, 2023

### CLERK'S REPORT

Session approved the reinstatement of Kimball Banks as a member of FPC Membership is 313.

Session approved the baptism request by Beth (Hoge) and Tanner Blair of Madison, WI, for the children, Grace Ryann and Quinn Elise. Baptism will be July 25.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$207,730	Budget	\$190,297
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$238,554	Budget	\$258,770
NET Income	-\$30,824	Budget	-\$62,914

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all those involved with the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration held on June 17-18. A well-attended worship service for FPC, Glencoe Sloan and FPC Mandan was held at Glencoe June 25 followed by a potluck. Tony Bartole's ashes will be placed at Glencoe Sloan cemetery. A special event planning form should be used by all committees and submitted to the office.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative and Personnel**—A cleaning team of Jim and Mary Kuntz has been hired to clean the church two days a week, 11 hours each.

**Hospitality**—The Pride event at BSC went well. The annual church potluck will be in August. Visitors to the church receive follow-up cards or phone calls.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**—Vacation Bible School will be July 31 - August 3.

**Proclamation-Worship and Music**—Revisions were made to the Facility Use form and policies; an Equipment Rental Agreement policy and form were approved by Session.

**Property and Equipment**—The cooling issue in staff offices has been solved. Thanks to Matt Engel, Chair, who has coordinated all the cleaning of the church since Tony's death.

**Resource Management**—The committee decided to have Eide Bailey do the audit this fall for a price not to exceed \$7,500. Committee budgets are due September 8.

**Child Care Center**—Hallway walls downstairs need painting and volunteers will be contacted to do this work.

**Nominating**—4 Deacons, 3 Elders and 3 Child Care Center Board members will be needed to fill the remaining positions for Classes of 2025. Church members are being contacted.

### NO UNFINISHED OR NEW BUSINESS

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



# JULY

## BIRTHDAYS

## JULY

Daniel Wassim	2nd
Nanc Skaret	6th
Allen Hoberg	7th
Leo Goll	9th
Katherine Satrom	9th
Randy Jensen	10th
Stacey Poffenberger	12th
T.J. Davis	14th
Paul Ronningen	14th
Shelli Peterson	14th
David Ingstad	15th
Letha Lewis	16th
Donna Arneson	18th
Mary Sherman	22nd
Andrew Davis	23rd
Carole Watrel	24th
Don Cross	27th
Lori Orser	28th
Corey Hedland	29th
Lee Doolittle	30th

## ANNIVERSARIES

## JULY

Tait & Samantha Ronningen	9th
John & Donna Richter	10th
David & Mary Ingstad	15th
Brant & Jane Boeckel	20th
Ron & Kathleen Gappert	20th
Kim & Juanita Hocking	24th
Jay & Sandra Cofell	31st



Please let us know if we've made  
a mistake, omission or if you  
would prefer not to have your  
special day published.

~ Thank you ~

## First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



### Pastor

*Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons*

### Finance Assistant

*Carol Thompson*

### Administrative Assistant

*Maureen Chrest*

### Parish Nurse

*Wanona Goetz*

### Christian Ed. Co-Directors

*Marete Farver & Mark Jensen*

### Organists

*Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad*

### Chancel Choir Director

*Debi Rogers*

### Westminster Chimes Director

*Lael Hoerauf*

### Audio/Visual Specialist

*Josh Stokka*

### Membership Services

*Judy Lentz*

### Child Care Center Director

*Shawn Stettner*

### Child Care Center Asst. Director

*Vanessa Hein*

### Nursery


*Mary Jones*

### Christian Ed. Intern

*Sophie Svihovec*



**2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						
2 10am Worship	3 NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts	4 OFFICES CLOSED  NO Prop. & Equipment NO Lay Pastors	5 NO "Munch & Mingle"	6	7	8
9 10am Worship Baptism of Rhett August Shockman	10 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christ. Ed	11 NOON (SMP) Senior Medicare Patrol Class Scams/Fraud (in Ramstad)  5:30pm CCC Board	12	13  6:00pm Hospitality	14	15
16 10am Worship	17 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	18	19	20 2:00-4:00pm Carole Watrel 90th Birthday Party!  NO Deacons	21	22
23 10am Worship	24 6:30pm Scouts	25 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	26	27	28	29
30 10am Worship	31 VBS 5:30-7:30pm 6:30pm Scouts	<b>V B S &gt; &gt; July 31 - August 3</b>				



2 CORINTHIANS 5:18 WEB

*But all things are of God,  
who reconciled us to  
himself through Jesus  
Christ, and gave to us the  
ministry of reconciliation;*

**FAMILY NEWS:  
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHOCKMAN FAMILY  
ON THE BAPTISM OF RHETT AUGUST!**

**HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY CAROLE WATREL !**